

FILESA Trade Mark

Loose Leaf File

Patented

S6/CMX2/1

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE LOCAL EXAMINATIONS SYNDICATE

G.C.E. ADVANCED LEVEL 1981

INDIVIDUAL STUDIES

9020/25

HISTORY 25

PRJT

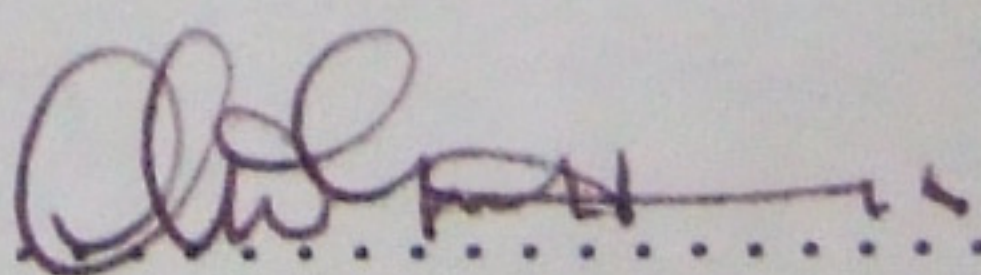
Centre Number 3632..... Candidate Number 52.....

Name of School SPRINGWOOD HIGH SCHOOL.....

Name of Candidate ANN L SWALE.....

Approximate total number of words 5000.....

I certify that, apart from general guidance (e.g. topics, sources) this project is the unaided work of the above candidate. This study has not previously been submitted for examination.

Signed 
Principal

This label is adhesive if brushed with water.

COMEX/4/41

This File is available in many colours, to fit all paper sizes.
Our comprehensive Loose Leaf Catalogue available on request.

ESA

CREATIVE LEARNING LIMITED
PINNACLES, PO BOX 22,
HARLOW, ESSEX CM19 5AY



THE CELTIC WAY OF LIFE

CONTENTS.

Introduction.

1

Chapter One - Who were the Celts?

The Celts in Europe

2

The Celts in Britain

6

Certain Celtic Peoples

8

Chapter two - How the Celts lived.

Housing

11

Food

13

Clothing

16

Jewellery

17

Hygiene

17

Chapter three - The life of certain members of the community

Women

20

Children

21

Homosexuality

22

Death

23

Chapter four - occupations and leisure activities

The Land

25

Hunting

27

Industry

28

Chapter five - The Government and Social structure of the Celtic community

Government

30

Society

31

Justice

32

The bards and the druids

34

Continued overleaf.

Concluding Paragraphs

37

Bibliography

38

Illustrations

Map of Europe

4

Site Remains

5

Cross at Monastirboice

10

Gaulish Warrior

15

Torcs

18 & 19

The Dying Gaul

24

Coins

29

INTRODUCTION.

The traditional image of the Celts is one of hostile tribes who over-ran Europe, and who were constantly at war. "The Celtic Way of Life" is an attempt to show that there was another, more gentle aspect of Celtic life. In this study, I have decided to concentrate on their domestic life, and I have discussed neither their warrior tendencies, nor the wars they fought.

Religion was a very important part of Celtic life, but I have not discussed this, as it is a very lengthy subject. I have, however, talked about the druids, as they were an integral part of Celtic Society, and as such, I have concentrated on their judicial and political roles, rather than their religious role.

The subject of the druids, and many other subjects in this study, are issues which could be discussed at great length, for much of the evidence is contradictory and doubtful. While I have pointed out that these issues remain in doubt, I have not, due to the limitation of words in this project, discussed them in great detail.

I have mentioned many Celtic tribes, but there is very little information about some of them. This is not a study of individual tribes, although I have found it useful to mention these tribes and their habits and customs, as examples with which to illustrate certain points. Most of this project is concerned with the Gauls, and of the Celts in general. Indeed, many people regard the Celts and the Gauls as being the same thing.

Much of my information has come from the Classical writers. A great deal of the evidence available about these times is confused, and the Classical writers must be relied on for any study of the Celts.

I have devoted Chapter One to the explanation of who the Celts were, for I feel that this must be established before one can go on to study Celtic behaviour, habits and customs.

CHAPTER ONE

WHO WERE THE CELTS?

THE CELTS IN EUROPE.

The origin of these peoples seems to lie partially in the inhabitants of north-Alpine Europe. The people here are known to archaeologists as the "Urnfield People", because of their burial rites. They cremated their dead, and buried the ashes in congeries known as "Urnfields". Their culture is spread from about 1300-700 BC, and there is evidence to suggest that they spoke a recognizably Celtic language.

Between 700 and 600 BC, there seems to have been a partial change in burial rite in Central Europe, connected with the iron-using Halstatt Culture. The graves which gave their name to this phase were found at Halstatt in the Salzkammergut in Austria. Much of the wealth of these people came from Saltrines and Saline Springs; salt was a much valued commodity, and could be traded for rich articles associated with burials. The burial rite changed in that the bodies were laid out unburnt on four-wheeled chariots, and covered by an earthen mound.

In about 500 BC, further changes apparently took place. The centre of Celtic power moved to the middle Rhine. At burials, the bodies were now laid out in the light, two-wheeled chariots which were to become typical Celtic vehicles of war. This second, and most typically Celtic phase, is known as "La Tène". The name was taken from the discovery of a (presumably ritual) deposit of metalwork in the lake at La Tène (the shallows) on Lake Neuchâtel in Switzerland. The La Tène Culture brought with it a glorious new art style.

From about 450 BC, movement and expansion of these barbarian people can be traced. It seems that

bands of these people made their way down into the Italic peninsula, over-running Etruria¹, settling there and further south, and, in 390 BC, pushing into Rome. Others went further east, into Asia Minor (Turkey), and in 279 BC they made an unsuccessful attack on Delphi.

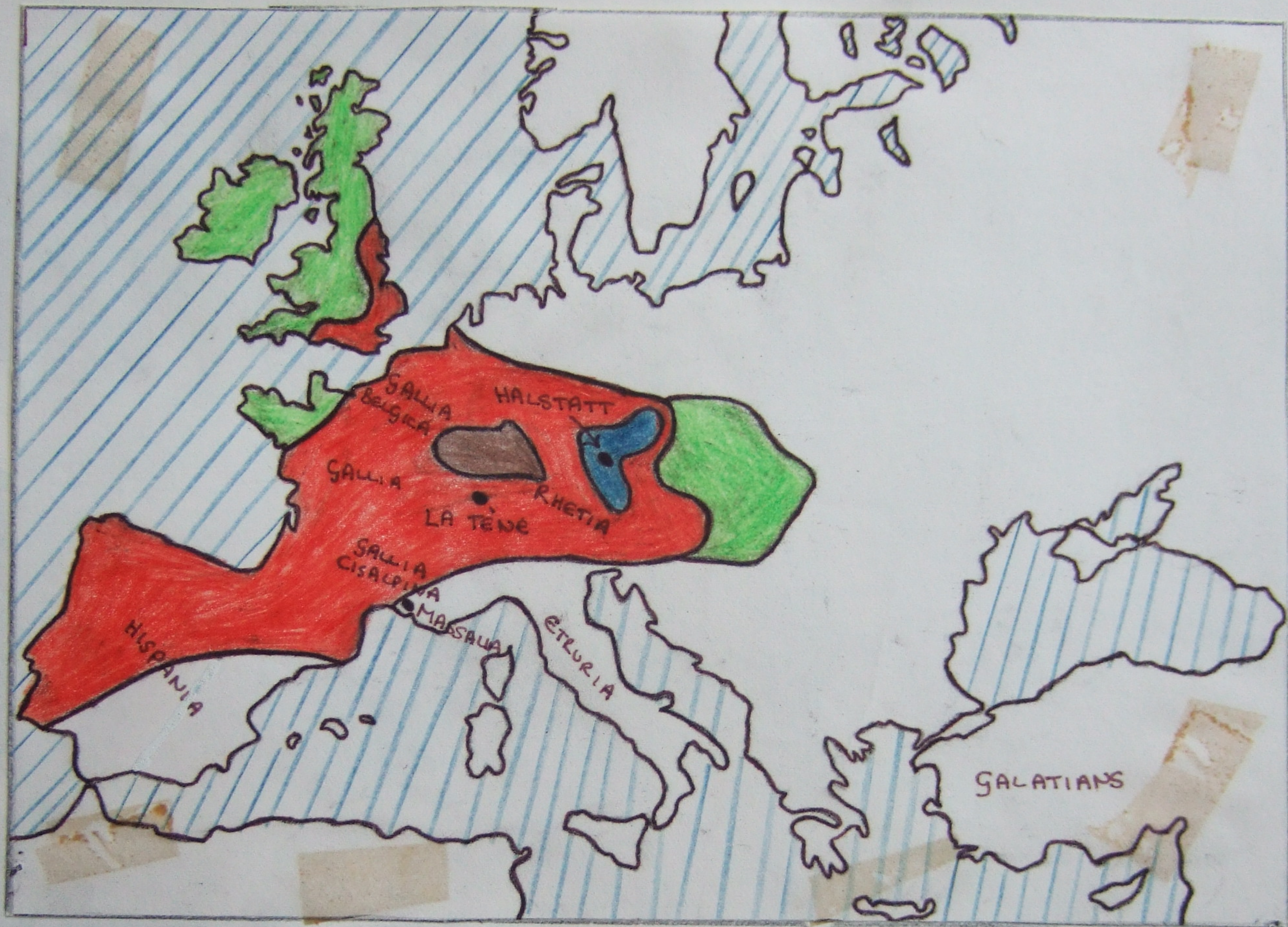
The classics tell us that the Celts were organised into tribes. The Greeks and Romans make comments on their social organisation, and some of their habits and customs, and much of this information can be regarded as genuine.²

After the fatal attack on Delphi, it would seem that the Celtic retreat commenced, although a few Celts remained in the east for many centuries.

Two peoples involved in Celtic movements in Britain, were the Belgae, and the Germani. The Belgae occupied north-eastern Gaul and were very progressive. It has been thought that the Belgae were not an entirely Celtic people, having perhaps some Germanic blood in them. There is evidence to suggest that "Germani" was an original Celtic tribal name.

¹ Etruria - a former region of Italy between the Tiber, the Apennines, and the river Magra. The Etruscans were a superior intellectual Aryan race originating from Asia Minor. Although they settled in Italy, they were different from and far more advanced than their Italian neighbours. They spoke a strange language, all traces of which have unfortunately been lost.

² In this study, I have had to include quotations and information taken from the classical writers, whose accuracy must remain doubtful.



CELTIC EUROPE IN THE IRON AGE

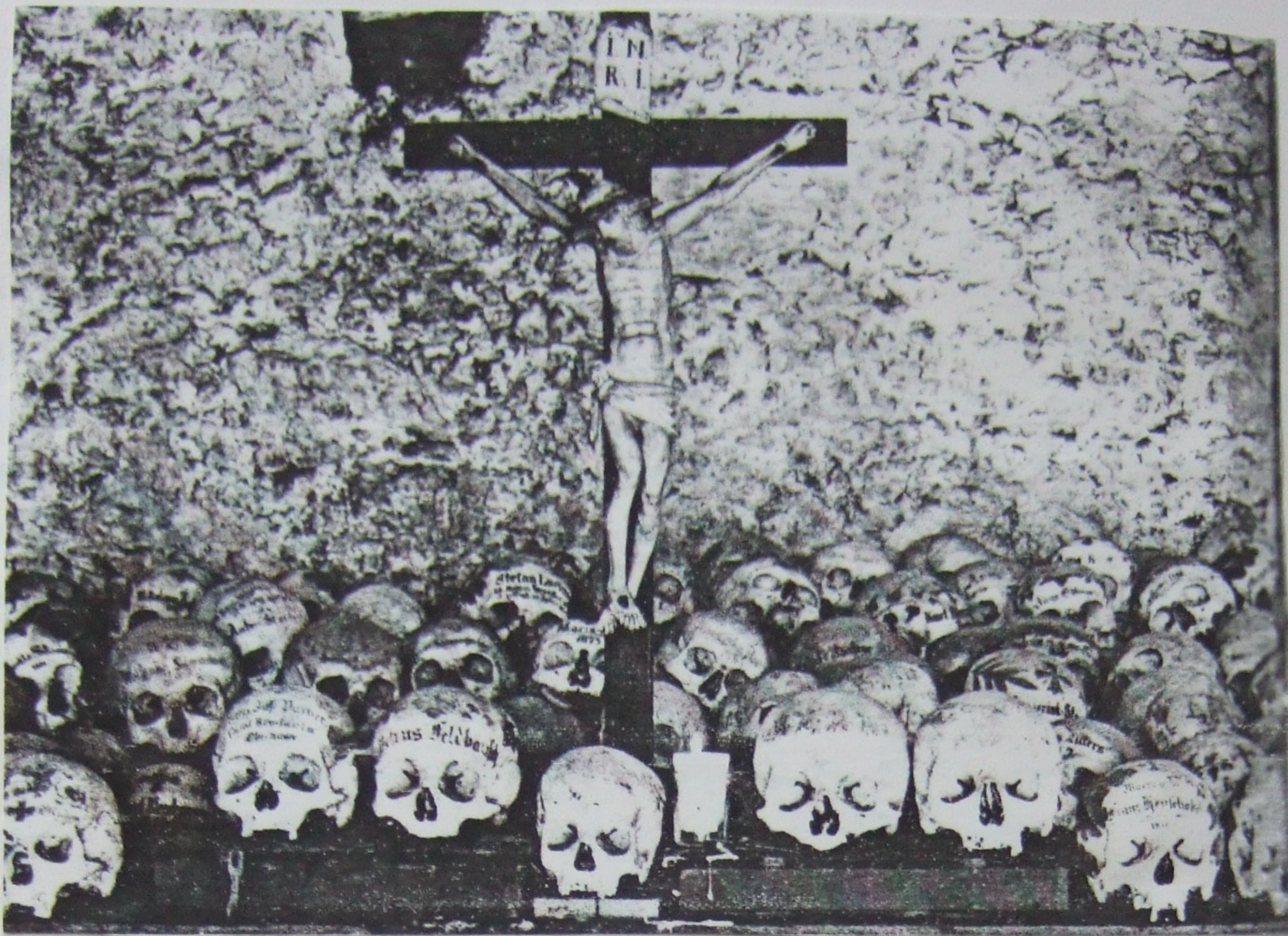
- Earliest La Tène.
- La Tène Culture additional to areas already occupied by Halstatt Celts.

Earliest Halstatt.

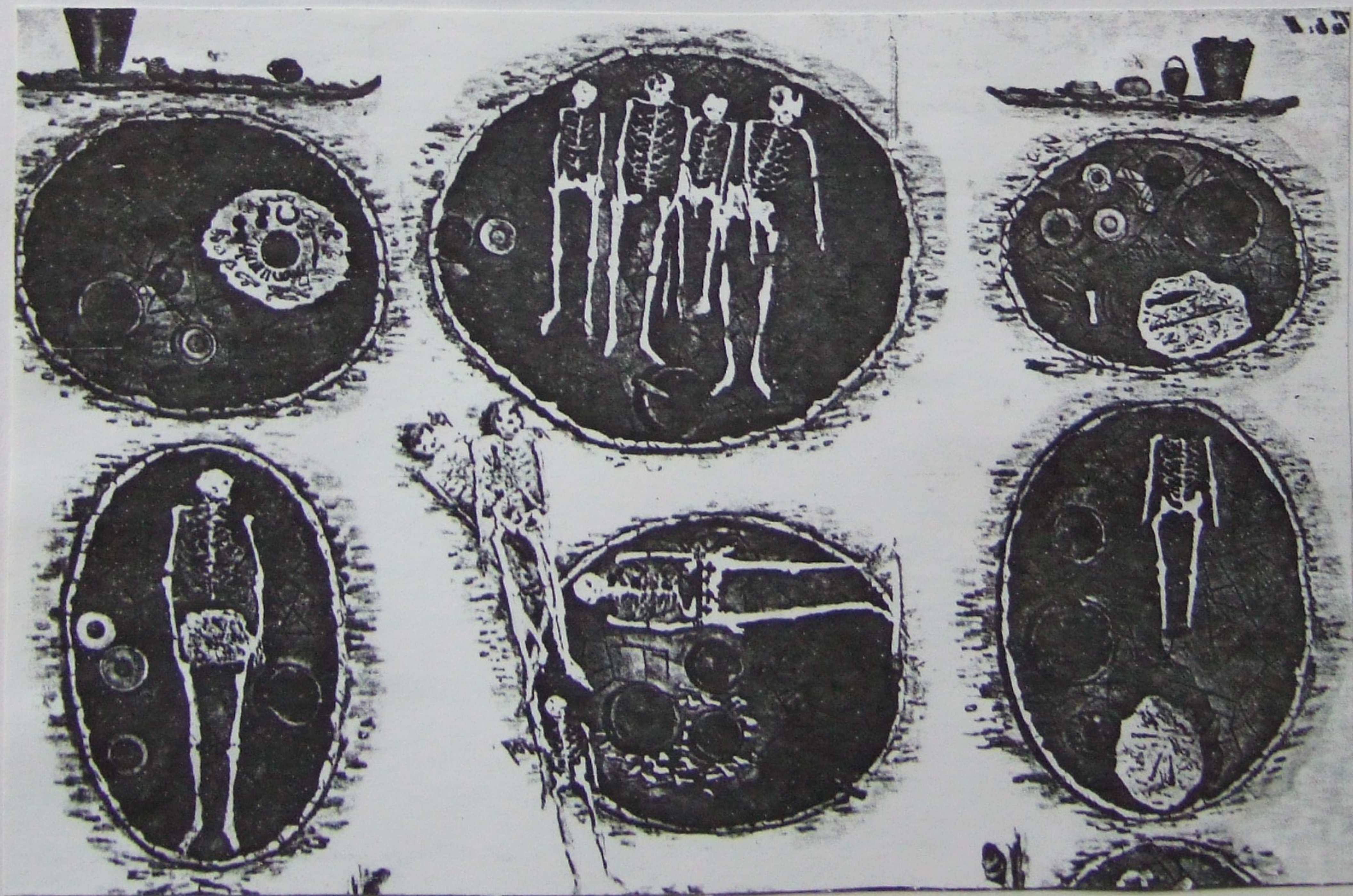
Halstatt Culture 7th - 5th Century BC.

Place names - Roman Territorial Names.

14



Remains from the burial ground at Halstatt, in the Salzkammergut.



THE CELTS IN BRITAIN.

There is archaeological evidence to suggest that there were Celts of Halstatt ancestry in north-eastern Scotland as early as 600 BC, and Settlements of people of Halstatt origin from France and the Low Countries would appear to have taken place about 500-450 BC. The initial Settlement of these people occurred on the east Coast of Yorkshire, and in the South and East. These Halstatt derived Cultures are grouped by archaeologists under Britain Iron Age A.¹

Although elements of the La Tène Culture were present from the first, the next movement into Britain seems to have taken place about 250 BC. These Settles came across to the East and South Coasts, and Spread to the South and West. It was these people who introduced the two-wheeled war chariots, and, of course, the La Tène art style. It is not known, however, whether it was these people or their Halstatt predecessors, who introduced the Druidic priesthood to preside over religious rites. These, and other bearers of La Tène derived Cultures, are contained within the British Iron Age B.

The third phase of Celtic Settlements is contained within British Iron Age C. It consists of the influx of Belgic peoples who Settled in Southern Britain. This movement can be dated to around 100 BC. These people may have introduced the art of enamelling, and brought over the Gods and Cult Symbols from Gaul. It would appear that it was the hostility of this group of people towards the Romans, that was the main reason for Caesar's invasion in 55 BC. Between this date, and

¹ The information about these groupings was obtained from 'Pagan Celtic Britain' by Anne Ross, published in 1967 - page 39.

Claudius' conquest in AD 43, further Belgic Settlements took place.

The South soon settled down to Roman rule, although the North put up opposition, and in the years between the two Roman invasions there was a great deal of movement to the North by those anxious to escape Roman domination.

From the later 6th Century, Scottish versions of the Iron Age A cultures of England were present, and trade relations show some connection between Southern Scotland and the Iron Age C (Belgic) area of Southern England.²

After the establishment of Roman Rule, restless tribes beyond Hadrian's Wall put up resistance, especially the Maeatae, and the Caledonii, who were the fore-runners of the historical Picts.³

2. During my research for this study, I found that the information on Celtic Settlement in Scotland was confused, and have therefore mentioned it only briefly.

3. There is confusion as to who the Picts were, although they are generally regarded as having been Celts. They could merely have been PICTI - the painted people (this is explained in chapter 2 of this study) or they could have been PICTONES - a conquering aristocracy from Pictavia, or Pictav. The opinion that they originated from the Caledonii was taken from 'Pagan Celtic Britain' by Anne Ross - page 41.

CERTAIN CELTIC PEOPLES.

Information about which Celtic tribes settled where is confused, because for much of the Celtic era, the results of archaeology and history cannot be made to coincide.

I have given a brief outline of the origins of the Celts, and in this study I intend to concentrate on their domestic life, their customs, and the way they lived, rather than their movements and their war-like tendencies.

As I have pointed out in the introduction, more is known about certain tribes than others. The La Tène culture was certainly important, and as we have seen, was known for its art. Yet these people were masters of many other techniques. Not only could they inlay metals, but long before the invention of the necessary rolling equipment, they were also capable of producing the finest iron. They even seem to have mastered the art of casting soft iron, a technique once thought to have been perfected only in the nineteenth century. They could boil ornamental glass, coloured and white, and they knew how to enamel. They could cover copper objects with tin, and may have been the first people in the world to silver them with mercury. They devoted much care to the manufacture of weapons. The chain-mail of Celtic princes could have stood comparison with those of the High Middle Ages.¹

The Celts of Gaul, upon whom much of this study is based, were most hospitable people, never locking their doors, and always welcoming passers-by. The Gauls were known to

¹ This information is based on stone representations.

Caesar as "Galli", and to the Greeks as "Galatae".

The Cisalpine and Transalpine Gauls² used to cut off the heads of defeated enemies and hang them up, like trophies, outside their houses³. The Gauls were described by Diodorus⁴ thus: "They are very tall in stature. Their hair is blond, but not naturally so; they bleach it, washing it in lime and combing it back from their foreheads. Some of them are clean-shaven, but others, especially those of high rank, shave their cheeks but leave a moustache that covers the whole mouth."

According also to Diodorus, the Transalpine Gauls were men of few words who spoke in riddles, leaving most of their meaning hidden, and he thought them intelligent and capable of learning. Yet Strabo⁵ found these same Transalpines simple-minded and limited. However, much of what we can learn about the Celts is subject to opinion.

2. Cisalpine Gaul - on this side (ie the Roman) of the Alps.
Transalpine Gaul - across the Alps - ie the other side.

3. Diodorus says that they preserved the heads in wooden boxes.

4. Diodorus (Siculus) of Sicily was a Greek historian. His 40 books were a universal history from mythical beginnings to the time of Caesar. He used varied literary sources with little judgement of his own, and often without regard to exact chronology. For certain periods though, he provides the best evidence available.

5. Strabo was a Greek geographer. He lived from about 58 BC - 25 AD. He spent his life in travel and study. His "Geographica" in 17 books included in Book four a study of Gaul, Britain and Ireland, although the countries he travelled through were not described with equal accuracy or fullness.



The West Cross at Monasterboice. The elaborate design and lavish decoration is typical of the art of the La Tène era.

CONCLUSION.

We have seen that the Celts were the masters of many techniques; that they could weave and use dyes, their art was very advanced, and that they were expert miners. The Celts seem to have been concerned with hygiene and personal appearance, and while many strange sexual relationships were conducted, we have seen that Celtic women were absolutely faithful to their husbands, and that they were devoted to their children.

Although I have not discussed the Celts as warriors, we can see from looking at their domestic life that they had no fear of death. They were prepared to sacrifice themselves for wine or money, and in duels. They did not mourn the death of another; they killed the last man to arrive at the assembly, and human sacrifice was common. With this attitude towards death, the Celts must have filled their enemies with dread and trepidation.

While it is obvious that in many respects the Celts were indeed barbaric, hanging up the heads of enemies, and executing fellow citizens for the sake of ritual, in many other respects they were relatively civilised. Their form of government was fairly sophisticated, and their form of justice seems to have been relatively humane. The feudal system that existed in Celtic times is very similar to the one that existed right through the middle ages.

We have seen, then, that the Celts were not total barbarians, and that in many ways they were far more civilised than their traditional image would lead us to suppose. Finally we have seen that there was another aspect of Celtic life, and that they were not totally pre-occupied with fighting. These were ordinary people who worked the land, developed their skills and knowledge, and who were all part of a relatively civilised and sophisticated society.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

"Pagan Celtic Britain" - Anne Ross. Published by Cardinal in 1974.
(First edition published by Routledge & Kegan Paul in 1967.

"The Celts" - Gerhard Herm. Published by Book Club Associates in 1976.
English translation 1976 - Weidenfield and Nicolson Ltd.

"Celtic Britain" - Lloyd Laing. Published by Routledge & Kegan Paul Ltd
in 1979.

"The World of the Celts" - G. Dottin. Minerva Editions - 1977

Answer FOUR questions.

1. ✓ How successful was Henry VII's handling of foreign affairs and trade?
2. ✓ "Cardinal Wolsey achieved nothing of lasting importance".
Discuss.
3. Consider the view that the religious changes of the period 1529-47 merely substituted royal for papal supremacy in the Church in England.
4. ✓ In what respects and with whom were government policies unpopular in the period 1547-58? *Ed + Mary*.
5. ? Why and how did Elizabeth I avoid war with Spain before 1585?
6. How does the social and economic legislation of the reign of Elizabeth illustrate the nature and aims of Tudor paternalism?
7. ✗ "The greatness of Elizabethan England lay in its artistic achievements". Discuss this by reference to TWO of the following:
Music: poetry and drama: architecture.
8. Account for the increase in the importance of parliament in the reigns of Mary I and Elizabeth I.

Answer FOUR questions.

1. Compare the domestic achievements of Frederick William I and Frederick II (the Great) of Prussia.
2. Compare the policies and achievements of Peter the Great and Catherine the Great in Russia.
3. "Spanish foreign policy between 1715 and 1748 was conducted in the interests of the foreigners who ruled the country". How true is this claim?
4. "I do not belong to myself but only to the people... I am the chief mother of my country". How successful was Maria Theresa in the service of her peoples and her country?
5. What were the causes and the consequences of the Diplomatic Revolution?
6. Which power benefitted most from the partitions of Poland?
7. What earned for the eighteenth century its label "The Age of Reason"?
8. "Here lies a prince who, despite his best intentions, could realise nothing of his aims". Was Joseph II too harsh a judge of his own achievements?